

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Switzerland/Germany

SUBJECT Visit of Partei der Arbeit Representatives to Karlsbad and Berlin

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1. The German-Swiss Pda officials, Jakob Lechleiter and Emil Arnold, were sent as the sole Pda representatives to the meeting of Cominform delegates in Berlin which took place around 20 July 1950 in conjunction with the party congress of the SED. (Lechleiter is Secretary of the Pda for Canton Zurich, and Arnold is Editor of the Pda newspaper "Vorwärts" and a top official of the Pda in Basel.)
2. Lechleiter and Arnold left Zurich on 15 July and proceeded directly to Prague where they reported to the CP Secretariat. From here they were taken, along with other Cominform delegates who had congregated in Prague, to Karlsbad where they remained until 18 July. On 19 July all the delegates in Karlsbad, where conferences had presumably taken place with the Russians, returned to Prague from where they proceeded on the same day to Berlin by automobile. At the Czech-German border they were met by armored cars of the East German Police which led the convoy to Berlin. The delegates then remained for one and one-half days in Berlin (July 20-21) to attend the SED congress, leaving after this on a four-day tour of the Eastern Zone during which factories and other installations were visited. Emil Arnold was urgently called to Karlsbad at some time during the four-day trip of the Eastern Zone and left the party to proceed there. He did not later rejoin the other Swiss delegate, Lechleiter, and at present is still in Karlsbad.
3. The most significant information which Lechleiter reported to top Pda functionaries in Zurich concerning his trip was the following. Grotewohl had stated in the presence of Lechleiter, Ducloux, and others during a private conference in Berlin that the SED, as part of its five-year plan, had been working on an undertaking to construct large new harbors on the Eastern Zone coastline. This project, although it had been worked out in great detail, was recently abandoned because, as Grotewohl literally put it, "Fairly soon some major changes are expected. The three harbors of Bremen, Hamburg, and Lubeck will be at our disposal because we in no case intend to tolerate the present occupation government in Western Germany much longer." Until the event forecast by Grotewohl happened, the Russians, according to him, were going to put the harbor of Stettin at the disposal of the SED.

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